

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A rotary ring for use in a scale reading apparatus, comprising:

a pre-formed continuous flexible ring having scale markings provided on a surface thereof, the flexible ring being sufficiently flexible to self-retain, without any attachment device, about a circular machine part solely by elastic deformation of at least one portion thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A system for mounting a rotary ring for use in a scale reading apparatus onto a circular machine part, comprising the rotary ring of claim 1 and cooperating means on one or both of said circular machine part and said rotary ring, said cooperating means comprising a region of increased diameter.

3-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2, wherein the cooperating means is located on the circular machine part, and wherein the region of increased diameter is integral with the circular machine part.

22. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2, wherein the cooperating means is located on the circular machine part, and wherein the region of increased diameter is not integral with the circular machine part.

23. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2, wherein the region of increased diameter comprises an annular protrusion.

24. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2, wherein the region of increased diameter comprises a tapered surface.

25. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2, wherein the flexible ring is provided with a tapered surface.

26. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the region of increased diameter and the rotary ring is provided with a tapered surface and forms a self locking taper.

27. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 22, wherein the region of increased diameter comprises a ring-shaped flexible member.

28. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2, wherein the region of increased diameter is shaped so that when the flexible ring is fitted over said region of increased diameter, a central region of said rotary ring is substantially parallel with the axis of said circular machine part.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of mounting a flexible rotary scale, in the form of a pre-formed continuous ring, onto a circular machine part, the method comprising:
stretching or shrinking the flexible rotary scale onto the circular machine part
such that the ring is retained without any attachment device.

30. (Previously Presented) A method of mounting a flexible rotary scale onto a circular machine part according to claim 29, wherein the circular machine part has a region of increased diameter and the method includes the step of stretching or shrinking the flexible rotary scale over the region of increased diameter.

31. (Previously Presented) A method of mounting a flexible rotary scale onto a circular machine part according to claim 29, wherein the region of increased diameter is integral with the circular machine part.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of mounting a flexible rotary scale onto a circular machine part according to claim 29, wherein the region of increased diameter is not integral with the circular machine part.

33. (Previously Presented) A method of mounting a flexible rotary scale onto a circular machine part according to claim 29, wherein the region of increased diameter comprises an annular protrusion.

34. (Previously Presented) A method of mounting a flexible rotary scale onto a circular machine part according to claim 29, wherein the region of increased diameter comprises a tapered surface.

35. (Previously Presented) A method of mounting a flexible rotary scale onto a circular machine part according to claim 29, wherein the flexible rotary scale is provided with a tapered surface.

36. (Previously Presented) A method of mounting a flexible rotary scale onto a circular machine part according to claim 29, wherein at least one of the region of increased diameter and the flexible rotary scale is provided with a tapered surface that forms a self locking taper.

37. (Previously Presented) A method of mounting a flexible rotary scale onto a circular machine part according to claim 32, wherein the region of increased diameter comprises a ring-shaped member.

38. (Previously Presented) A method of mounting a flexible rotary scale onto a circular machine part according to claim 29, wherein the region of increased diameter is shaped so that when the flexible rotary scale is fitted over the region of increased diameter, a central region of the flexible rotary scale is substantially parallel with the axis of the circular machine part.

39. (Currently Amended) A system for mounting a continuous flexible rotary ring for use in a scale reading apparatus onto a circular machine part, comprising a pre-formed continuous flexible rotary ring having scale markings provided on a surface thereof, wherein a tapered surface is provided on one or both of said circular machine part and said flexible

rotary ring, and the taper angle of said tapered surface is sufficient to form a self locking
taper, without any attachment device.